

Message Text

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64
ACTION CPR-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0675
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PARIS FOR STEPHERSON, PHILIPS, NASA MURPHY, AND CONNETT

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: TSPA, COE
SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF EUROPE INVITES ASTRONAUTS TO MAY
ASSEMBLY SESSION

1. SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE HAS PROPOSED APOLLO 16 TEAM VISIT STRASBOURG MAY 8 DURING COUNCIL S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. COMMEMORATIVE SESSION OF COUNCIL S PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY WILL ALSO INCLUDE VISIT AND MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS BY FRENCH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU, MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF SEVENTEEN MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, AND PARTICIPATION BY PRESIDENTS OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS.
ASTRONAUTS PRESENCE WOULD MARK US/EUROPEAN SPACE COOPERATION AND COUNCIL S INTEREST THEREIN.

2. PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF COUNCIL HAS LONG BEEN ACTIVE IN SUPPORT OF ATLANTIC SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, SPECIFICALLY IN POST APOLLO. MORE CONCRETELY , BIOSTACK EXPERIMENT TO MEASURE THE EFFECTS OF COSMIC RAYS ON BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE DEVELOPED UNDER COUNCIL AUSPICES AND CARRIED ON APOLLO 16 AND 17. MOST RECENTLY , THE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS ON JANUARY 26 THAT NEW EUROPEAN SPACE

AGENCY REPORT ANNUALLY TO COUNCIL PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR DEBATE ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

3. EUROPEAN FLAG CARRIED ON APOLLO 16 HAS SINCE BEEN ENCASED IN UNIQUE WORK OF CRYSTAL BY BACCARAT, PERHAPS THE WORLD'S FINEST CRYSTALLERY. BACCARAT PRESIDENT RENE DE CHAMBRUN IS DIRECT DESCENDENT OF LAFAYETTE AND UNDERTOOK PROJECT AS SYMBOL OF US/EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP. DE CHAMBRUN WILL PRESENT WORK DURING 25 TH ANNIVERSARY SESSION FOR PERMANENT DISPLAY AT COUNCIL.

4. ON PROGRAM, COUNCIL SUGGESTS ONE TO TWO HOUR SESSION WITH ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. MEETING WOULD BE BUILT UPON PRESENTATION BY APOLLO 16 TEAM SUPPORTED BY FILMS OR SLIDES AND FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. BASED ON RESULTS OF SIMILAR SESSIONS WITH MARINE EXPLORERS THOR HEYERDAHL AND JACQUES COUSTEAU, AUDIENCE WOULD COMPRIZE 50-70 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS ACTIVE IN SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS AND AN EQUAL NUMBER OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS.

5. COUNCIL SECRETARY GENERAL LUJO TONCIC-SORINJ PROPOSES LUNCH IN HONOR OF ASTRONAUTS TO INCLUDE KEY EUROPEANS IN FIELD AND RENE DE CHAMBRUN. THIS WOULD BE IN CONJUNCTION WITH BACCARAT PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT WHICH ASTRONAUTS PRESENCE ALSO DESIRED.

6. SHOULD NASA AND APOLLO 16 TEAM ACCEPT COUNCIL PROPOSAL, WE SUGGEST THE MISSION BE COMPLEMENTED BY STRASBOURG EXPOSITION ON LUNAR ROVER. VEHICLE IN FRANCE AND UNCOMMITTED FOR PERIOD MAY 7-12. PRIVATE FINANCING AVAILABLE TO COVER TRANSPORT AND RELATED EXPENSES. ASTRONAUTS COULD EFFECTIVELY OPEN EXPOSITION WITH COUNCIL AND LOCAL OFFICIALS. ENVISAGE BRIEF CEREMONY WHICH WOULD, HOWEVER, REACH WELL OVER ONE MILLION IN FRANCE AND NEIGHBOURING GERMANY.

7. EARLY RESPONSE REQUESTED AS COUNCIL NOW PREPARING ACTIVE MAY SESSION AND MUST ALLOCATE TIME IF APPOLLO 16 TEAM AVAILABLE. BECAUSE OF OTHER COMMITMENTS, MAY 8 ONLY POSSIBLE DATE.

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8. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON PROGRAM POSSIBILITIES IN PARIS OR ELSEWHERE IN FRANCE.

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